Mwesen language

Mwesen (formerly known by its Mota name *Mosina*) is an Oceanic language spoken in the southeastern area of Vanua Lava Island, in the Banks Islands of northern Vanuatu, by about 10 speakers.[1]

Mwesen shows many similarities with the island's dominant language Vurës, to such an extent that they have sometimes been considered dialects of a single language. However, studies have shown that Mwesen and Vurës have various dissimilarities, e.g. in their vowel systems,[3] in their noun articles,[4] in their pronoun paradigms.[5]

Mwesen	
Mosina	
M̄ēsēn	
Native to	Vanuatu
Region	Vanua Lava
Native speakers	10 (2012)[1]
Language family	Austronesian ▪ Malayo-Polynesian ▪ Oceanic ▪ Southern Oceanic ▪ Vanuatu ▪ North Vanuatu ▪ Torres–Banks ▪ **Mwesen**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`msn` (shared with Vures)
Glottolog	`vure1239 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/vure1239)` Vures[2]

Contents

Phonology
Grammar
References
Bibliography
External links

Phonology

Mwesen has 7 phonemic vowels. These are all short monophthongs /i ɪ ɛ a ɔ ʊ u/:[3]

Mwesen vowels

	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Near-close	ɪ	ʊ
Open-mid	ɛ	ɔ
Open	a	

Grammar

The system of personal pronouns in Mwesen contrasts clusivity, and distinguishes four numbers (singular, dual, trial, plural).[5]

Spatial reference in Mwesen is based on a system of geocentric (absolute) directionals, which is in part typical of Oceanic languages, in part innovative.[6]

References

1. François (2012): 88).
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Vures" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/vure1239). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. François (2005:446), François (2011:194)
4. François (2007).
5. François (2009), François (2016).
6. François (2015: 169-170).

Bibliography

- François, Alexandre (2005), "Unraveling the history of the vowels of seventeen northern Vanuatu languages" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_VowelsNorthernVanuatu_OL44-2.pdf) (PDF), *Oceanic Linguistics*, **44** (2): 443–504, doi:10.1353/ol.2005.0034 (https://doi.org/10.1353%2Fol.2005.0034)
- François, Alexandre (2007), "Noun articles in Torres and Banks languages: Conservation and innovation" (https://www.academia.edu/1330201/), in Siegel, Jeff; Lynch, John; Eades, Diana (eds.), *Language Description, History and Development: Linguistic indulgence in memory of Terry Crowley*, Creole Language Library 30, Amsterdam: Benjamins, pp. 313–326, doi:10.1075/cll.30.30fra (https://doi.org/10.1075%2Fcll.30.30fra)
- François, Alexandre (2009), "Verbal aspect and personal pronouns: The history of aorist markers in north Vanuatu" (https://www.academia.edu/1330253/), in Pawley, Andrew; Adelaar, Alexander (eds.), *Austronesian historical linguistics and culture history: A festschrift for Bob Blust*, **601**, Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, pp. 179–195
- François, Alexandre (2011), "Social ecology and language history in the northern Vanuatu linkage: A tale of divergence and convergence" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_2011_JHL1-2_Social-ecology_Vanuatu.pdf) (PDF), *Journal of Historical Linguistics*, **1** (2): 175–246, doi:10.1075/jhl.1.2.03fra (https://doi.org/10.1075%2Fjhl.1.2.03fra).
- François, Alexandre (2012), "The dynamics of linguistic diversity: Egalitarian multilingualism and power imbalance among northern Vanuatu languages" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_2012_NorthVanuatuSocioling_IJSL.pdf) (PDF), *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, **214** (214): 85–110, doi:10.1515/ijsl-2012-0022 (https://doi.org/10.1515%2Fijsl-2012-0022)
- François, Alexandre (2015). "The ins and outs of *up* and *down*: Disentangling the nine geocentric space systems of Torres and Banks languages" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_2015_North-Vanuatu-space-directionals.pdf) (PDF). In Alexandre François; Sébastien Lacrampe; Michael Franjieh; Stefan Schnell (eds.). *The languages of Vanuatu: Unity and diversity*. Studies in the Languages of Island Melanesia. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics. pp. 137–195. ISBN 978-1-922185-23-5.
- François, Alexandre (2016), "The historical morphology of personal pronouns in northern Vanuatu" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_2016_History-personal-pronouns_north-Vanuatu_s.pdf) (PDF), in Pozdniakov, Konstantin (ed.), *Comparatisme et reconstruction : tendances actuelles*, *Faits de Langues*, **47**, Bern: Peter Lang, pp. 25–60.

External links

- Audio recordings in the Mwesen language (https://pangloss.cnrs.fr/corpus/list_rsc_en.php?lg=Mwesen), in open access, by A. François (source: *Pangloss Collection* of CNRS).
- *Kpwet, the Trickster God*: A story in Mwesen (http://alex.francois.online.fr/AFtxt_msn-kpwet_e.htm), presented in trilingual format (by A. François)

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mwesen_language&oldid=965873457"

This page was last edited on 3 July 2020, at 22:32 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.